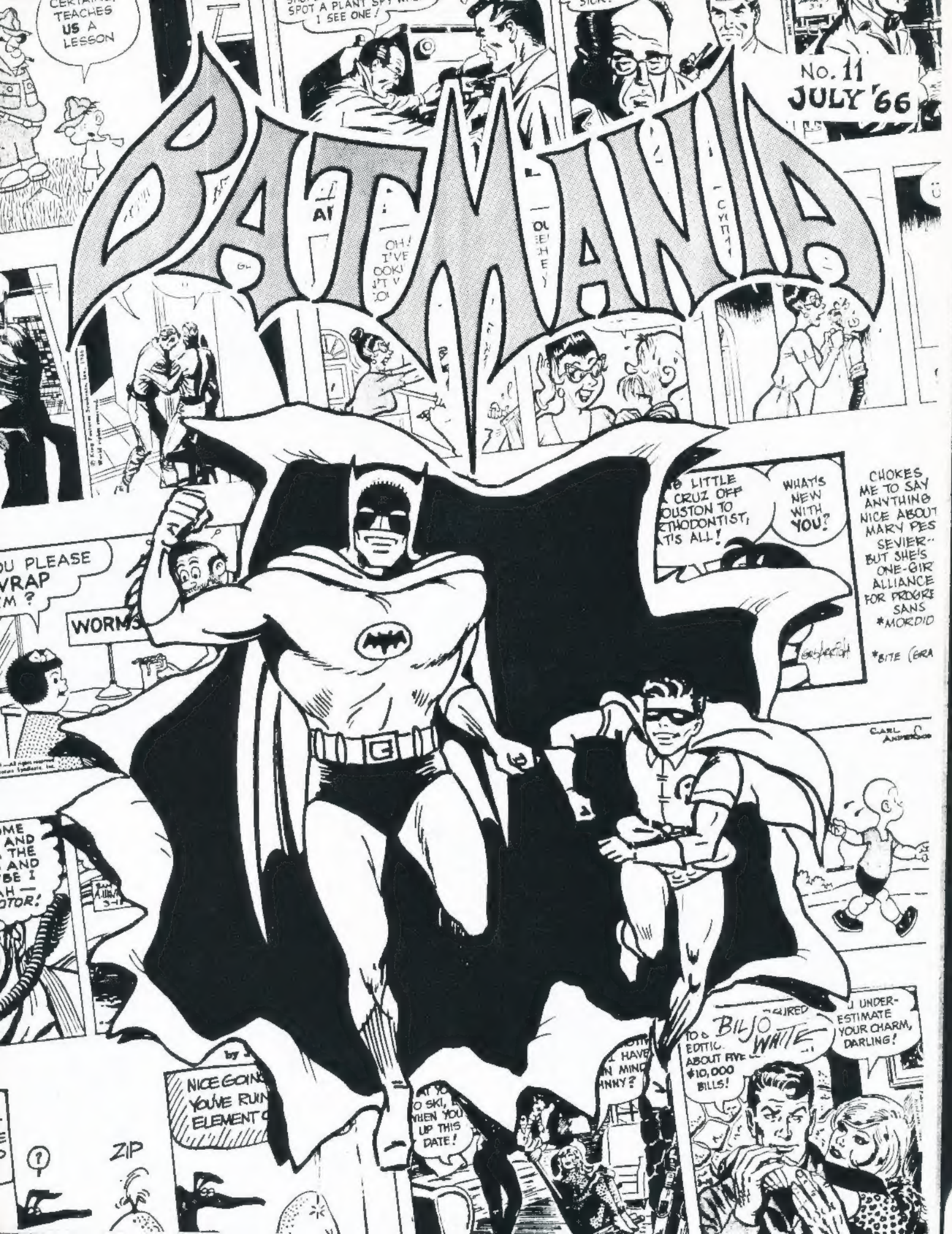




CHOKES  
ME TO SAY  
ANYTHING  
NICE ABOUT  
MARY PEs  
SEVIER..  
BUT SHE'S  
ONE-GIRL  
ALLIANCE  
FOR PROGRE  
SANS  
\*MOKDID

\*BITE (GRA

CARL C  
ANDERSON



# BATMANIA

No. 11  
July 1966

2nd  
Anniversary Issue

BILJO WHITE  
Editor  
TOM FAGAN  
Asst. Ed.

WHO ME?

When Dwight Whitney, Hollywood Bureau Chief of TV GUIDE, called me a few months back for a discussion of the new, then, Batman TV show, he gave me the impression that his forthcoming article would mention Batmania in some way when the article was presented.

After the brief write-up on Batmania in NEWSWEEK, Feb. 15, 1965, I was somewhat hesitant to expect too much. Let's face it, TV GUIDE, I understand, has the largest newstand circulation of any magazine in America (the world?). So how could a small, but dedicated, publication of fandom expect to make the pages of such a giant as TV GUIDE? With this in mind, you can imagine the ego-lifting thrill I received when I opened the brilliantly colored Batman cover of the March 26-April 1 issue. There, for all the world to see, was BATMANIA--The Fanzine for Batman Fans! Needless to say, there too was the Old Captain, Biljo himself, leading off the article in such a totally unexpected way.

Unbelievable. Just think of the hundreds, thousands of people associated with TV all of their lives who will never make the pages of TV GUIDE. And here, in less than two years, Batmania has been brought to the attention of millions.

To Dwight Whitney, and to TV GUIDE, speaking for all Batmanians everywhere, we are honored by our good fortune and sincerely appreciate the boost you've given to Batmania, and above all, to our legendary favorite, The Batman.

This was the beginning. In the following days I received a call from radio station WFIX in New Orleans. Their news director was having trouble contacting Bob Kane in New York (who happened to be out of town). I was able to supply some badly needed information on Kane/Batman for their proposed half-hour special.

The same morning the TV GUIDE hit the newstands I received a call from Ron Schulte of KOMU-TV here in Columbia. He informed me of the good news that the station was considering the Batman show for their future schedule. To see the show locally would please the Old Capt. tremendously and end my long weekly journeys to Boonville (see lead article in Batmania #10).

Roy Thomas, pro writer at MARVEL, called me from New York and just about made my day perfect. Some of you may recall, I assisted Roy as art editor with ALTER EGO (Fandom's First and Foremost Publication). Regarding Roy, a former Missourian who's "showin' them," as one of our favorite people, wife Ruthie and I missed seeing him last Christmas, so I was most pleased to hear from him. Guess who was at his apartment when he called? ...Bill Everett -- of Sub-Mariner fame. Darn, Roy -- how I envy you.

BATMANIA, The Fanzine Especially for Batman Fans, is distributed irregularly (but we try to maintain a bi-monthly schedule) to Batmanians everywhere. If you live outside the U.S.A. and desire a copy, you may obtain it thru a trade arrangement. (I collect comic strips, comic books, clippings on Batman and James Bond.) American fans can obtain this publication in the same manner -- but always include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your inquiry. Batmania may also be obtained directly by order: (See page 27 -- inside back cover) Photos courtesy of ABC-TV, New York, N. Y. It is not necessary to order Batmania to be a Batmanian Club Member. Membership certificates will be mailed out to anyone sending a S.A.E. BATMAN is copyrighted by National Periodical Publications, Inc. and is used by permission. Please notify us immediately of any change of address. Thank you.

SID, Edwardsville Campus  
MAR. 10-1966



SURE, WE KNOW ROBIN WORKS PART TIME, BUT HOW CAN GENERAL STUDIES GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO ONE STUDENT'S SCHEDULE WITHOUT DOING THE SAME FOR OTHERS?

The cartoon on the right appeared along with the heading, "Batman Goes to the Races" in Charlie Rice's Punchbowl feature recently. Mr. Rice pointed out that four young students at Marquette High School in Milwaukee had compiled a "Batman Dictionary." Take a look:

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Aeronaut.....          | <u>Stratman</u>          |
| Ordinary Gangster..... | <u>Gatman</u>            |
| Cat-lover.....         | <u>Patman</u>            |
| Cat-hater.....         | <u>Scatman</u>           |
| Texan.....             | <u>Ten-gallon Hatman</u> |
| L.B.J.....             | <u>Democratman</u>       |
| A New Yorker.....      | <u>Manhatman</u>         |



What-do-you-think-of-That, man?

LATE BAT-NOTES...LATE BAT-NOTES...LATE BAT-NOTES...LATE BAT-NOTES...LAT

CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP sheets are still available. If you are a new member of The Batmanians and haven't received your Official membership number, you may do so by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Batmanian Headquarters, P.O.Box 115, Columbia, Mo.

LEWIS WILSON FOUND!!! The original movie Batman, who quit movies 15 years ago to take a steady job, has been located in North Hollywood, Calif. Lewis, now working in a pectin factory, is trying to avoid local publicity so that it won't interfere with his job. Recently when he took his young kids to see the old serial, his 9-year-old son jumped up and yelled, 'That's my daddy!' "We pulled him down and stuffed cotton in his mouth," Lewis said with a laugh, "but the children really didn't seem too impressed with my acting." Wilson is amused by the whole Batman craze and particularly his part in it. "Even if somebody asked me--and they wouldn't--I wouldn't be interested in making another film. I'd hate to have to wait another 25 years before it became a hit," he said with a chuckle.

IVAN IVANOVICH, the Russian Batmanian, Lt. of 'The Society of the Bat' has just notified Headquarters that he has received the 10th issue of BATMANIA okay. How did he get this issue -- can you guess?

NEW! NEW! THE BATMANIA ACHIEVEMENT AWARD is now going out to the following Batmanians: SAM VOROBELY, TOM FAGAN, J. RANDOLPH COX, HERMAN BENDER, RICK WEINGROFF, IRENE VARTANOFF, ROBERT JENNINGS, LEROY S. BLAIR, STEVE KELEZ, MARTY ARBUNICH, BILL DUBAY, and ARLINE MARY GOMEZ. Recipients of this award have shown outstanding service towards the cause of promoting a more universally accepted Batman. All Batmanians can qualify for this award for one or more of the following reasons: Has gained attention in some news media for Batman and his/herself; Made sufficient contribution (of news item, book, magazine, etc.) to the open files of BATMANIA (located at The White House of Comics.); Contributed an article for publication in BATMANIA. The Achievement Award will not be limited to the above reasons -- so someday soon you may receive yours. All recipients will be listed in BATMANIA, so watch the next issue. Awards are being made continuously. Please notify us if you believe you qualify for the award, as the Old Captain's memory might be a little rusty.

# THE WORLD'S FINEST TEAM OF HEROES

by Robert Jennings

Nineteen-hundred-fifty-two was not a very good year for costumed heroes. Especially considering the fact that so few of them were left. The late forties had surrendered their years to a new decade, and the passing years had left costumed heroes behind in the past, just as it left the four inch television screen, the zoot suit and ration stamps. Only a few heroes managed to slide over the hump from 1949 to 1950, and for the world's most popular costumed heroes, things were not going very well. Oh, it was true enough that the Superman family had gotten a new member book, SUPERBOY only four years ago, and it seemed to be doing pretty well for itself, but the situation still looked grim. Only last year the Justice Society of America had finally breathed its last when the members wrapped up the career of the Key, and in an obvious bid to tone down some of Superman's all inclusive powers and give him more emotional appeal, the editors at DC had invented kryptonite as his one weakness. Now it appeared that sales for WORLD'S FINEST COMICS, one of the strongest pillars in the company fortune, were about to fall away while printing and circulation costs went continually higher. Clearly things were not as good as they could be. In desperation the editors decided on a daring move. In SUPERMAN #76, dated May-June 1952, an event took place which was later to rock the comic world.

The story was titled "The Mightiest Team in the World." It got the



cover and the lead spot for that issue, and opened, not in Metropolis, but in Gotham City. Batman and Robin have just rounded up the last criminal on the city's wanted list. With things quiet in the city, both members of the famous crime fighting team decide to take a well earned vacation. Robin plans to "visit relatives upstate," and Bruce decides to take a coastal cruise aboard the ship Varanis. Back in Metropolis, the foremost citizen of that city also plans to vacation on the Varanis.

As luck would have it, the ship is so crowded that Clark Kent is forced to share a cabin with another passenger, a playboy dandy named Bruce Wayne. "And so the quirks of fate lead to the most portentous meeting of the year" intoned the blurb passage. At that very moment, a man dressed in an asbestous suit fires an incendiary bullet into a parked gasoline truck. Protected by the blazing inferno, he enters the customs office and steals a fortune in gems. Impetuous as ever, Lois Lane, who was on board to see Clark off, dashed down to get a closer look. And with the typical luck of all female heroines in comic books, she is encircled by flames while the thief makes a clean getaway. Hearing the sounds outside, Bruce wayne hastily suggests that they turn off the cabin lights and get a little rest. Clark agrees instantly, but as they are changing to their secret identities, flames pour light in thru the port hole, and each sees the other making the switch! "No time to talk this

over, Superman," shouts the Gotham detective, "The fire out there will blow up that tank truck!" The Man of Steel answers, "Right...we'll talk about this later!"

With an ease brought about by long years of practice, Batman swoops down to save Lois, while Superman carries the tank truck high into the air, then puts out the fire on the pier. The jewels are found missing, and Batman immediately concludes that the crook probably boarded the cruise ship to make his getaway. The two heroes decide to go after the criminal together, but in order to protect their secret identities, they decide to go aboard as Batman and Superman. Lois Lane is also aboard, and determined to make herself as pesky as ever. To keep her distracted, Superman suggests that Batman make a play for her and he will pretend to be jealous, thus allowing at least one member of the team to be free at all times. Unfortunately for the Man of Steel, Lois overhears this scheme, and decides to give the boys a real run for their money. To further divert suspicion, Clark suddenly comes down with a ghastly case of seasickness which keeps him constantly confined to his cabin. His roommate Bruce Wayne kindly agrees to take care of him in his time of need.

Superman's X-ray vision fails to turn up the missing stones, but he does spot a man with a gun in his coat pocket, a likely suspect. Batman arranges to speak with the man. Although his wallet cards say he is an electrical engineer, John Smilter, he tells Batman he is a high tension worker, Batman decides he is lying, since high tension men always wear rubber soled shoes for safety, while this man does not. The heroes are convinced they have their man, but hours pass with no new development.

Smilter meanwhile, has decided to make doubly certain he is not captured. He sabotages the ship's engines, and arranges to kidnap you know who. A helicopter arrives to take the pair off the ship, just as the bomb in the engine room explodes. Superman must stay and save the crippled ship, but he throws Batman up to the helicopter, where the Caped Crusader soon has things well in hand. The jewels are discovered, encased in lead and disguised as bullets for the crook's gun. Batman spotted it when the criminal refused to fire on him. The only problem unsolved is wher Lois's heart really lies. The two champions agree that she will belong to whoever takes her to dinner. Unfortunately for both lovers, Lois Lane has dinner with the Boy Wonder that night.

This made a rather interesting, but hardly an impressive first meeting. The story is full of minor flaws and seemed almost routine for such a monumental event as the swapping of secret identities and the beginning of a great friendship. It was interesting to learn that Robin had relatives upstate. For years most of the readers had been under the impression that Dick Grayson was a complete orphan. It is difficult to understand how Bruce Wayne could have been made his guardian when he had living relatives so closeby. It also seemed unusual that Superman was so unresourceful that he had to hurl Batman up to the helicopter. A much simpler solution would have been for the Man of Steel to merely use his X-ray vision disabling the helicopter and fishing the crooks out of the drink later. Likewise I don't think Superman in his right mind would have taken a chance with the life of Lois hanging in the balance, not even to recover the fabulous Fabian jewels. And finally, I would be especially interested in learning how the criminal found the time, or stored the equipment to melt the diamonds into lead bullets while he knew Superman and Batman were prowling over the ship and might have found him

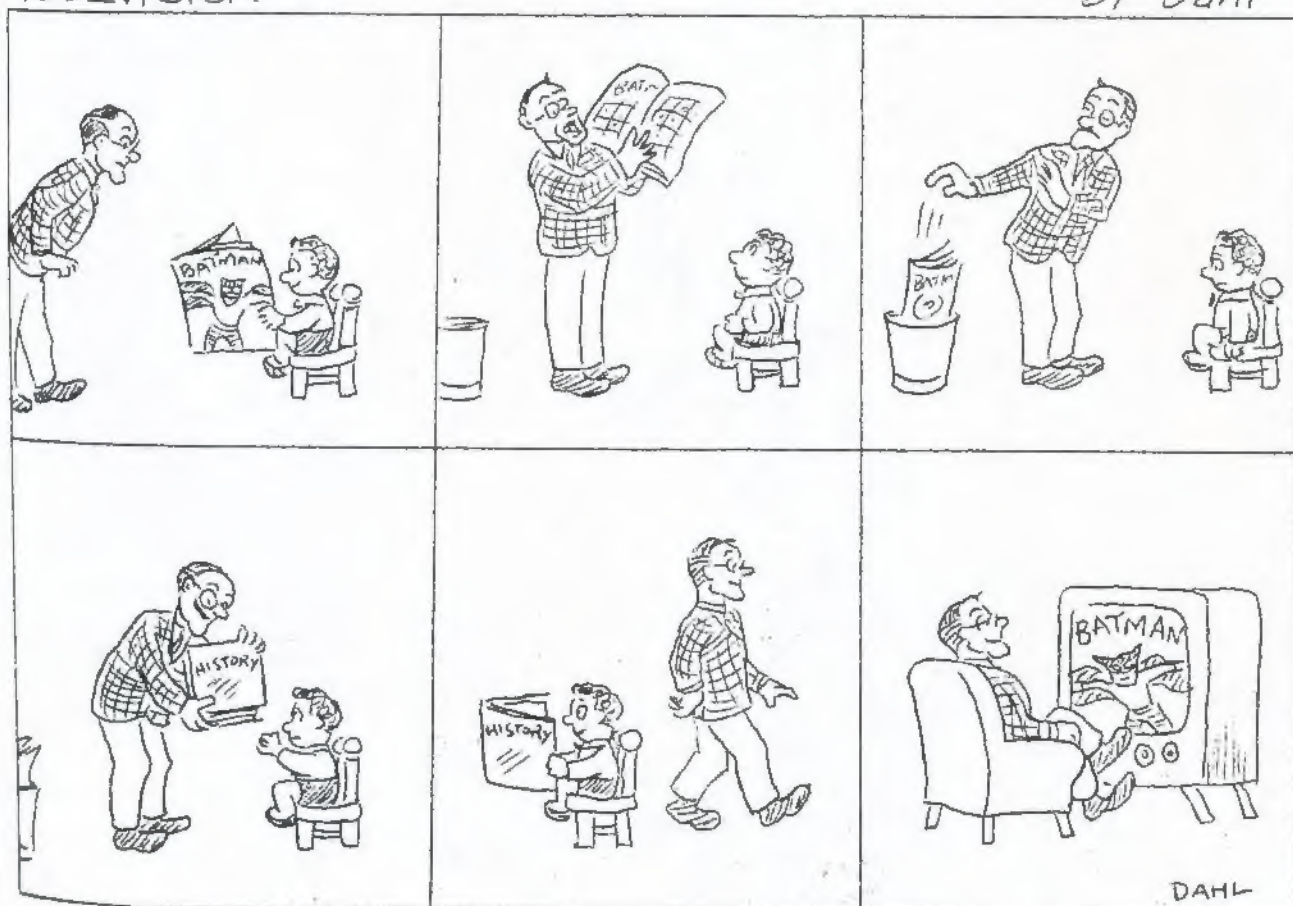
out at any moment. The whole story just didn't ring true somehow.

But it was a first meeting, even if an unsatisfactory one. It raised many questions. No word was mentioned of future plans to get together, and indeed, it wasn't until two years after this first contact that Superman and Batman shared another adventure. It happened, finally, in WORLD'S FINEST #71, and sorry I am to tell, the story was no better than the first. The two heroes were joined this time by Robin, attempting to locate a gang which is planning to use kryptonite against Superman, while preventing Lois Lane from learning Superman's true identity at the same time. The story drug, all twelve pages of it. The conclusion was both expected and welcome when it finally rolled around.

The foremost question in the mind of many readers would have been, why the wait? Why should two solid years elapse before the second meeting? The only answer which seems reasonable is that WORLD'S FINEST sales may have taken a minor upswing, strong enough to delay the presentation of two heroes in the same strip until the July-August 1954 issue. But when it finally did come the whole comic underwent a series of changes. From the massive page count the book dropped back to the recognized standard of 32 pages. The price was clipped from fifteen cents to the regular dime. Instead of two stories, one for Batman and one for Superman, the two heroes were combined into a single twelve or thirteen page adventure. Many of the extemperaneous heroes and features which had been battling around the old WORLD'S FINEST were dropped without hesitation. Green Arrow stayed around, and so did Tomahawk, the others were scrapped.

## TELEVISION

By Dahl



Things went from bad to worse in issue #72. The paths of the great crime fighters cross as they hunt down a gang which uses army weapons to attack armored trucks. Readers are exposed to a wide variety of incoherent and downright stupid plot inconsistencies. Chiefly among these was the scene in which cell doors suddenly swing open revealing two freed convicts armed with guns, who promptly kidnap Clark Kent, Lois Lane and a guard at the prison. How this daring escape was engineered is never explained, readers are left to use their own imaginations on the matter. As the story progresses Batman tries to follow the escape car, which is headed for Fort Crime, where the gang has its hideout. We witness a Great Moment in Comics when Clark, hands tied behind him, plunges his hands thru a stone wall, takes two pieces of stone, and throws them in a perfect ninety degree curve so that they strike two thugs on the floor below exactly with enough force to knock them out. They had been standing at different windows preparing to machine-gun Batman and Robin. Even for Superman this is stretching the matter a bit. Batman rushing to the rescue has all the poise of King Kong ascending the empire state building, and is almost as obvious. Finally in desperation Clark manages to escape by falling back thru a "weakened wall", and puts things in order. One gets the general impression all along that the assault on Fort Crime would have gone far smoother if Batman had stayed home in Gotham City.

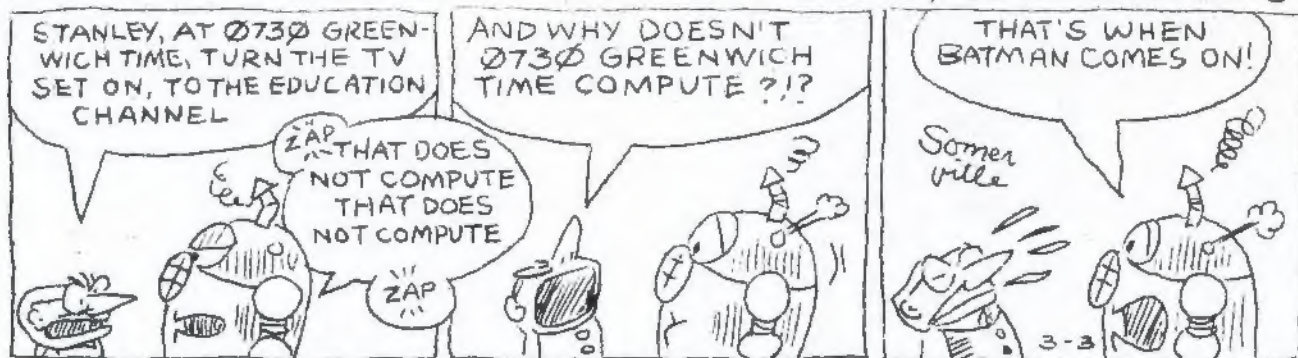
With issue #73 things began to move at a faster pace. Batman and Robin are on the trail of a superstitious criminal who has lost his lucky sword (that's what it says, honest). In order to lure him into a trap Batman pretends to be a fortune teller, while Superman is enlisted to make his predictions come true. The following issue saw the team in action against an alien, a very bothersome alien, who turns out to be no more than a small lost child. Then they fought the purple masked gang, with Batman solving the mystery even while his leg was immobilized in a cast...

Issue #73 was really the first adventure in which the trio of champions fought like a working team. In the previous two issues readers almost got the impression that Superman and Batman were thrown together by unwilling fate, and they worked together only because they had to, as a temporary necessity. After the story ended, each hero returned home to his own business and gave the other no more thought. Issue #73 changed all that. Suddenly they were a team of friends, each extending a helping hand to the other whenever there was a need, no matter how small.

A sense of unity in action developed also. In issue #71 for example, most of the story action revolved around the Batman, while the Man of Steel lay unconscious, a prisoner of a kryptonite trap. In issue #72,

### STANLEY STEAMER

by John Somerville



readers had no trouble seeing that Superman could have handled the case much easier on his own. Batman and Robin were extra baggage, thrown in as a sort of 3 Stooges thriller to provide comic relief.

The pluralism of heroics was still faintly evident in issue 73 and for a couple of issues thereafter, but by the time the Contest of Heroes in #74 rolled around things were on an even keel.

Interestingly enough, in at least three issues, Superman had obtained a Superman signal which worked on the same principle as the Bat Signal which called the Gotham detective into action. The twin signals were first shown on the cover of issue #74, with Batman and Robin showing as much amazement as the readers. "Look Robin, there's the Bat-signal summoning us to headquarters...but what's that?" Inside, the Super-signal was used by Batman to bring the fighting team together. "That was the emergency signal Batman and I had agreed on in case of a crisis" thinks the man of steel as he flashes towards the meeting.

It wasn't until issue #76 that readers got their second look at the new Super signal. Batman and Superman, each representing their home city, engage in a friendly contest of good deeds to see which will host the World Electronics convention. Each hero moves to the other's territory to make the contest more interesting. Atop a tall building (we don't learn which one), Lois Lane shows Batman the massive light. "This is the S-signal which we use to call Superman," she explains. Batman has the symbol changed to a B for the duration of the contest. In Gotham City the faithful old Batsignal was outfitted with the inscribed S emblem.

Issue #81 saw the use of a new and different type of Superman sky-light. This one was used by Batman to call his friend to an urgent meeting. As the comic book showed it, a small silhouette of Superman standing with hands on hips, cape flapping behind him was attached to each glowing headlight of the Batmobile. "The two beams will focus a single silhouette-image on the high clouds, miles from here!" was the mental explanation Batman gave. It seemed rather improbable to me. Surely Gotham City and Metropolis, sprawling giants that they are, could not have been located so close together that a beam of light shown against the clouds, even a beam of light from the Batmobile, could have connected them. But Superman saw the signal immediately, and rushed to give his aid.

Except for the use of the Super signal, the heroes had no real method by which they could contact one another in times of troubles. Even the Super Signal was not a very workable system, since it was for Batman's use primarily. If Superman ever faced a serious crisis he would be helpless. Not that such problems arose very often of course. Superman had an attitude that if the situation was so grim that he couldn't handle it, then he had no business getting Batman involved. More often than not it was Superman who volunteered his services to Batman, or perhaps criminal trails might merge together putting both heroes on the case. They seemed to have no special difficulties in getting together for action, even if they had nothing more romantic to contact each other with than an ordinary telephone.

With issue #82 the team began to undergo their most fantastic and interesting adventures. The art, which except for the first two issues, had been very good, suddenly became spectacular under the adept handling

of Richard Sprang. He was to handle many other stories in the future. The colors were brilliant, the background detailed, but his really strong point was the action anatomy of the heroes. In my opinion no other artist, except possibly Jerry Robinson, has ever been able to draw the Batman better.

The stories were nothing to sneer at either. In this issue the trio were catapulted back into time to become the three Super Musketeers. They unraveled the mystery of the man in the iron mask, an adventure which carried them across seventeenth century France to right a wrong three centuries in the past, and to foil a plot of treason against King Louis XIV himself.

Issue #83 featured what was undoubtedly the weirdest cover ever to be featured on WORLD'S FINEST. The story was called "The Case of the Mother Goose Mystery", and showed the trio standing amazed as a giant goose dressed like an old lady, a giant cat playing a fiddle, and a large man-egg walked toward them on a dirt path. The story inside was one of the best I have ever read, and only with the publication of the last Batman annual did I learn that this adventure was a rewrite of the Batman comic strip case from 1944. This does not detract from the comic book adventure, however, its new twists and brilliant delivery give it enough originality to please even the most jaded reader's taste.

Other stories continued to pour forth, and they were all good ones. In issue #85 Vicki Vale made her first and only appearance in WF team stories, playing the part of Batman's jealous girlfriend, while he and Superman apparently throw themselves at a beautiful princess from Bal-Kania. Vicki's presence in the story, along with that of Lois Lane was something of an unusual event. The team stories were notoriously short on supporting characters. In fact, there wasn't any. The only person who could be considered at all a regular was Lois Lane, who turned up in infrequent issues to urge Superman on to greater glory, or to speculate in awed tones on the latest battle of the heroes. There was no more of the deep personality involvement which was displayed in those first two issues. In those Lois had been an integral part of the action, more so even than Robin the Boy Wonder. Other people who were seen occasionally, but whose importance so far as the plot goes were, if anything, even smaller than Lois's, included Commissioner Gordon and Perry White. Olsen was not to be even mentioned for years to come.

The lack of suitable background characters is rather curious. Most comic book heroes need all the background people they can drag in, to round out the stories and to turn cardboard personalities into something which more closely represents human life. But with the team adventures, apparently these weren't needed. Only the criminals being battled, and the dynamic figures of the heroes propelled the stories. It is possible that with such personalities as the team displayed, personalities which had weathered the strains of a comic book career for sixteen years, were more than sufficient to carry the stories along. For whatever reason there was never room enough for extra supporting characters to become involved in the stories.

Issue #86 had what could best be described as an old World's Finest cover. It showed Superman shooting a giant arrow on which Batman lays. While the scene is rather loosely connected with the story inside, it was mainly reminiscent of the older cover scenes. In those days the cover

illustrations were often "cute," showing improbable scenes of frivolous action. One showed the three heroes roller skating together, another pictured Superman juggling Batman and Robin in mid air.

Issue 87 heralded the first of several important changes. The cover depicted Batman leaping to protect Superman from a lighting bolt, while the Boy Wonder fends off a gigantic African lion. Superman narrated the story. It was to be the first time in WORLD'S FINEST that Superman had lost his powers, and the first costumed super villain the team had ever battled. Elton Craig was his name, and by posing as an astronomer, he had examined new fallen meteors in hopes of finding kryptonite to be used against Superman. But instead of kryptonite he found a strange metal box, encrusted with kryptonite crystals, which was filled inside with super strength capsules.

These had been devised by Jo-EI, Superman's father, for use on earth in case his calculations regarding that planet's gravity and atmosphere proved to be wrong. (This was the first of many alterations which would occur in Superman's origin story.) Craig took one of the pills, and lured Superman into a trap, where the kryptonite crystals made him a prisoner. Superman used his X-ray vision to melt a water pipe above the box, and the liquid washed away the crystals. Finding himself seriously weakened by exposure to the material, he decided to take one of the pills in order to stop Craig's planned robbery. But to his horror he discovered the pills had been penetrated by kryptonite dust, and as a result, he lost his powers.

Unable to meet the menace, he called on Batman and Robin (by telephone, if you're curious). Using the remaining capsules they give themselves super powers, and therein followed a weird battle of super beings, neither one of which could harm the others. Determined not to sit on the sidelines, Superman uses detective ability to trace Craig's hideout, only to find himself trapped by the super criminal a second time. In action packed panels Craig raised a pistol, and fulfilled the ambition of every criminal in comics. He shot Superman, but even as the body slumped to the floor in a crumpled mass, Batman and Robin entered the hideout, and captured Craig, just as his twenty four hour powers were slipping away. But apparently it was too late to save the man of steel. Of course we readers knew better. It turned out that while Superman was certainly vulnerable, his costume was still impervious to all harm, including bullets. The shot had merely knocked him unconscious. Medical experts in the reading audience who might have pointed out that the shock of a bullet striking a man above the heart would be more than enough to kill him were dismissed with a wave of the hand. Such trivial

'HOLY NORTH ATLANTIC  
TREATY ORGANIZATION,  
IT'S THE FROGMAN!'



MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE - MAR. 20, 1966

matters did nothing to detract from an interesting story.

Batman took the rest of those radioactive capsules back to the Bat Cave with him as a trophy, leaving the way open for still other super-strength stories. But the world's greatest detective never bothered using them again, even tho he was to gain unique powers in other ways, and even tho there were many times when he sorely needed the extra edge super powers could have given him. He seemed to have forgotten that the capsules even existed as the issues rolled on by, but even if Batman forgot about those strange pills, Elton Craig didn't.

Almost six months were to elapse before the pills were again to cause trouble for the heroes. In the meantime they had their hands full with other problems. Luther and the Joker, the greatest arch fiends from each hero's past joined forces to give our heroes real difficulties. And in issue #89 Batman solved the mystery of Lightning Man and the Club of Heroes.

Then in issue #90, Elton Craig broke prison. He had boasted to his fellow convicts that he had hidden one of those capsules somewhere outside. The warden was alarmed and called in Superman. Newscasters carried the word to the Dynamic Duo, who raced toward Metropolis to help their friend. The news also reached Kathy Kane, alias the Batwoman, who decided to give the boys a helping hand. The chase led to an abandoned chemical factory, where Batwoman correctly deduced that the lead chemical tanks would make a perfect hiding place for the capsule. Arriving the same time Craig did, the only way to prevent it from falling into his hands was to swallow it herself. Needless to say, Batman was not too pleased when he learned of these sudden developments.

Batwoman soon showed her real interest, and there followed a whirlwind series of adventures with Batwoman attempting to learn the secret identity of not merely Batman, but Superman as well. For a time she thought she had learned who Batman really was, and if Batman hadn't disguised himself as Clark Kent, she would have unearthed Superman's identity also. After the twenty four hours of special powers ran out we learned that Superman had purposely made a false Batcave to throw the lady off the trail. Disgusted and discouraged, Batwoman is about to go back into retirement again, when Batman declares "You showed such cleverness and courage that I can't ask you to drop your career completely. Just be careful!"

This was only the third issue of the World's Finest team where the secret identity of the two heroes was in any sort of danger. The book was remarkably free from prying females, chance giveaways and sudden faces from the past who could connect two and two and come up with an alter ego. Both Batman and Superman spent at least a fourth of their time in their own books trying to escape discovery of their hidden identities. This problem seldom reared its ugly head with the team adventures, for which I'm sure the heroes were glad. I know I was.

Issue #91 saw the team make their second trip into time, this round into the far future as "The Three Super Sleepers." Despite the fact that a mere ten issues ago, in issue #81, Ka-Tar, historian of the year 5956 had paid them a visit in their own time, armed with a complete history of all their exploits, including their secret identities, the people of the year 5957 seemed more or less unfamiliar with them. They were

ancient heroes," but they were not well remembered. In fact, when they wore civilian costume and go on the air posing as scientists Clark Kent and Bruce Wayne, this does not even bring a ripple of recognition from anyone, not even the arch villain Rohtul they seek to capture. Rohtul turns out to be none other than a distant descendent of Lex Luthor, Superman's old twentieth century foe. It is somehow comforting to know that even a power mad egotist like Luthor will someday settle down and raise children, even if they do persist in following the family tradition. It just have been a remarkably pure line, for the criminal of the far future bore a startling resemblance to his original ancestor.

Issue #94 dropped the first really significant bombshell since the Elton Craig case. EXCLUSIVE! screamed the cover blurb, THE ORIGIN OF THE SUPERMAN BATMAN TEAM! Readers who had followed the adventures from the beginning would be puzzled by the inside story. According to the new legend, Batman and Robin had long been admirers of Superman. After they discover a plot to use kryptonite against him, they travel to Metropolis to pass along the information, only to see him shot with a liquid kryptonite gun. They rescue him, wash away the liquid and manage to help him end up the case. The type of story used, with numerous flashbacks interwoven into the current action, made the plot confused and difficult to follow. Not that the story was much good to begin with anyway.

This was to be the start of a whole new era. Actually the era had begun to dawn back when Craig became the first super villain they had faced, and it advanced when Batwoman became a part of one story. From this point onward the team would face an increasing number of aliens, super villains and gadgets by the dozens. The story quality would sink lower and lower as each successive issue clicked by.

But for a time yet the stories remained readable. The art was still good, the action still fast. But with the publication of "Secret of the Creature" in #107 even the most optimistic was willing to admit something had happened. Before this time the team had concentrated most of its efforts on crime, human crime, with time left over for time traveling, charity drives, straight adventure, the type of stories readers learned to look forward to. The shift in story policy ended all that. Far away on a flood of gadgets, racked like billiard balls by aliens and costumed evil doers who took up more and more of their time, the team became concerned with a series of events and a type of action which was completely divorced from reality. They were vanishing, little by little into the world of make-believe, a land where magic and madness blended together into one bright color orgy of foolishness.

A rather interesting phenomena began to develop with the story deterioration. Back when the series had originally began the stories had been slanted toward the activities of one or the other members of the team. With the full union of team spirit the stories had eliminated any character discrimination or favoritism. Now, in the new era, it began to reappear again, in a slightly more subtle form. In issue #111 for example, Superman lost his memory and became emperor of a lost South American empire. It is up to Batman to handle most of the story action and restore things to normal. In issue #115 Superman's powers ran wild, and Batman carried the ball again. In issue #112 the team was faced with an alien animal who possessed strange powers. This was a perfect story for Superman. Batman's human prowess was hardly a match for a rampaging monster. Superman was the prime mover in issue #114 which portrayed a

battle between two alien factions. With only a few exceptions this new phase was characterized by the more or less solid single hero stories. The other member of the team usually sat passively on the sidelines and took the bit parts while the central hero of that particular epic handled the matter in his own way. One gets the impression from reading many of these adventures that with a little adaptation the second character could have been written right out of the whole story with no serious strain at all.

From behind a mile high pile of gadgets, avoiding the rush of a million invading alien hords, the powers that be from DC announced there would be another editorial change. In 1964 Julius Schwartz took over BATMAN and DETECTIVE. Mort Weisinger became the editor of WORLD'S FINEST. It was hardly encouraging news, but long suffering readers could well argue that nothing could be worse than Schiff's lackluster handling of the book. The first issue under the new editorship was #141 and readers were to learn exactly how wrong they had been.

Suddenly the team grew from a trio to a quartet, as Jimmy Olsen, blundering cub reporter from the Starline strip, now worked his way into WF. The first story dealt with Robin and Jimmy's attempt to play dead while trying to track down invisible crooks. It was handled with all the grace and dignity of a Three Stooges short. The next issue featured the Composite Superman, and after that came the feud between Superman and Batman. The reader could almost wish for the good old days under Jack Schiff with this sort of product.

The deterioration of the series was moving progressively downward. On a fluke and on a single panel Jimmy Olsen was allowed to learn the greatest secret in comics, Batman's secret identity. One would think that after his own misadventures even in the Superman series that the heroes would have given serious thought to entrusting him with such weighty knowledge. After all, hadn't he (before) been proven time after time that Jimmy was not cautious enough to be entrusted with his secret identity? Why then was Batman's identity any less precious? Apparently the alter ego of the world's greatest detective is not nearly so important. It could be proved, long to a lunatic murderer whose only real achievement in comics seems to be his ability to get into trouble and his record of being saved over a million times by the Man of Steel.

The real all time low point in the series was reached in issue #145. I'm sure you all remember that hasty story. Remember how poor Batman had been corrupted by alien rays so that he became the jailer for super-heroes of the planet? Remember, reader, how shocked and horrified you were when you learned how Superman had been deprived of his powers? Remember how the aliens had suspended a gigantic red filter between the planet and the yellow sun? Scientific development in comics was set back forty years. But the characters seemed not to notice at all. They played the farce right on to the end with straight faces.

I still hold against all reason that a new day will dawn, sometime. And though my spirits are low, perhaps it is possible that I have misjudged the situation. When one thinks on the matter, the picture begins to seem a little unreal. Would heroes as powerful and as intelligent as Batman, Superman and Robin actually be engaged in such asinine adventures as these? It seems unlikely somehow that they would have made all the mistakes, accepted all the false information and behaved in such frivi-

lous manner as these people are now doing.

The fact is, for several years now none of these three great heroes have behaved in a manner which conforms to their past greatness. This applies not merely to NE Comics, but to all the other books they appear in as well. Who knows, but right now, even as you sit reading these words, Superman, Batman and Robin may be confined in some dark dungeon far removed from the sight of men. But is there any hope for their escape? At first glance it would seem not. But at least not without help, help from a lot of people. The powers of Superman, the strength and detective ability of Batman, do not come from a yellow sun, or from years of careful training. Their powers and abilities come from readers all over the nation and around the world who are willing to believe in them, who are willing to lend to each character a little of their own strength and spirit. And if these mighty heroes are ever to escape the dark domination which has enveloped them it will be up to readers, like you and I, to do part of the job. We wouldn't need to do much. A few words on a post card, a long letter occasionally, a sense of disgust expressed whenever we comment to our friends. After all, we are the people who plunk our money down issue after issue to read the adventures of these heroes, surely our voice means something.

I think that given only a small push, Superman, Batman and Robin can defeat the powers which have lessened their spirits and made their adventures a hollow mockery of the past. They can do the job. All they need is a little help from us. I have faith in them, for after all, aren't they the mightiest team of heroes in the world?

---Robert Jennings

Editor's Note: The COMIC WORLD is no longer with us, but its creative editor still turns out an occasional article now and then. Robert Jennings submitted this piece before the 1st of the year and it is now presented in answer to your requests for a long article. You may not agree with Bob -- and if you don't, we invite your comments for The Batmenians Speak. One thing though, Bob calls 'em as he sees 'em.

This has been a different sort of Batmemorabilia. Usually we present a capsulized version of each Batman story. Compare this article with the capsule versions in earlier issues of Batmania and let us know which you prefer.

RECEIVED...READ...RECOMMENDED

STAR-STUDDER COMICS (March #8) Offset 50¢ Color cover 40 pages  
 "The Human Cat" by Richard Green continues to be one of Fandom's  
 Finest. Write: Larry Herndon, 1830 Highland, Carrollton, Texas.  
 FANTASY ILLUSTRATED 10. 5 (Spring) Offset 60¢ Color cover 44 pages  
 Reed Crandall/Jeff Jones covers. Russ Manning/Richard Kyle text.  
 Order from: Bill Spicer, 418-H West Stocker St., Glendale, Calif.  
 COMIC BOOK NO. 1 (This is a new one) Offset Color cover 65¢ 36 pgs.  
 A. James Hanley's GOOD GUY will remind you of Capt. Marvel (it did  
 me) and for some enjoyable reading send for a copy...to:  
 Alan James Hanley, 1940 W. Wilson Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60640  
 THE CARTOONIST #1 (Spring) Offset 75¢ Color cover 36 pages  
 Ronn Foss' HIGHWAYMAN is a most modern form of 'super-hero'...  
 Write: Jerry Hasson, P.O. Box 1281, Hollywood, Calif. 90028  
 -----Send me your fanzine for the RECEIVED..READ..RECOM. section-----

Batmanians--your LOC's (letter of comment) are always welcome.



THE

BATMANIANS

SPEAK

Tom Fagan's letter to Bill Dozier (see B'mia #10), while straightforward, left room for a major point of contradiction. For one thing I cannot conceive of any survey of whatever walk-of-life group, including Batmanians to a degree, that would weigh so heavily against Dozier's tongue-in-cheek interpretation of Batman. I am sure he uncovered many negative reactions to the television version, and there is no doubt that what we have is unpalatable to many, but at what ratio? I have also conducted an informal survey of twenty people, two of which could be classified as embryonic Batmanians, and the remainder to which even the word "camp" denotes a ring of teepees. The show, as is, gets a generally guarded approval, guarded in the sense that they still wouldn't want to get caught reading Detective Comics on the 8:12 to the Loop.

But it is perfectly acceptable to say you watched Batman, under whatever ruse or pretense, and not be mentally incriminated. On these grounds I say Dozier has achieved more success with Batman than even he anticipated.

Fagan is a purist, as are most of the serious minded comic fans who have seen their rather tight little island overrun by aliens. The Batman craze will come to pass, but how can we expect that pure Batman would be equally acceptable? Other network batpacks will follow Dozier's lead, and then one day Nielsenman will push his button and the wheel will turn again.

You do not keep a show on television that plays to the gallery. There are more poultry-raisers than Batmanians in the country. Feature a twice a week slot dealing with pullets and Rhode Island Reds. To a segment it would have an interest, but I for one would switch to The Adventures of Ed Zeff: Shoe Salesman.

Batman played straight just wouldn't make it. That's the romance of being a fan. Batman will be ours again some day, long, long after the plastic Batarangs have joined the ersatz coonskin hats in that great surplus warehouse called Yesteryear.

---Gene Kousek

I don't have Batman No. 1 (and at \$60-100 a copy it will probably be some time before I do) so your review is the first contact that I have had with the story of Hugo Strange (see B'mia #7) and his giant man-monsters. Perhaps in 1940 it seemed different but when you consider the villains and menaces that Batman has encountered during the past twenty six years, his taking human life seems very unnecessary regardless of what he says. If Batman had machine gunned Hugo Strange, "the most dangerous man in the world" it might have been justified but to shoot his hirelings seems unexcusable for the Batman that I have known most of my life.

Below is a list (probably incomplete) of the times that Batman has used a gun. Only in issue No. 4 does he actually shoot any one but the most spectacular instance is in the July 1946 issue of Detective Comics. It seems that the controversial scene in Detective Comics No. 327 is not as unprecedented as everyone seems to think.

- Batman No. 4 - Batman shoots machine-gunner in hand to disarm him.
- Batman No. 17 - Bruce Wayne kills shark with rifle.
- Batman No. 23 - Bruce and Dick hunting in Canada and shooting at targets in shooting gallery.
- Batman No. 42 - Batman pretends to shoot cigarette out of man's hand to prove that he has not gone blind when he really has.
- Batman No. 55 - Batman shoots at shooting gallery target to flush "The Gong."
- Batman No. 73 - Batman uses Lilliput Pistol Watch Fob to free himself from cage.
- Detective No. 113 - Batman covers captured criminals with machinegun.
- Detective No. 210 - Batman pretends to commit suicide to trick Brain Hobson gang.
- Detective No. 260 - Batman competes in skeet shooting contest in Space Olympics.
- Detective No. 327 - Batman captures Smiler's gang with pistol taken from crook.

---LeRoy S. Blair

To all Batmanians  
c/o Mr. Biljo White

203 N. Fayerweather  
Dept. of Comicsology  
Dartmouth College  
Hanover, N. H.  
03755

Dear Mr. White:

Everybody  
knows that  
Spiderman  
is better  
than Batman.

Yours sincerely,

*Peter Parker*

Peter Parker, Ph.D.

Yes, Batmanians,  
it was bound to  
happen. We have  
been boldly  
attacked. How  
dare they?  
Could this  
Spiderman be  
for real--or  
is he actually  
The Outsider? Regardless, THIS MEANS WAR!



## THE RUMBLE OF ARTILLERY AND THE RUSTLE OF BATWINGS

By Harry M.D. Levins, 1st Lt. Infantry (Sep.)

Grafenwöhr, Germany, is a sprawling, rugged, and very dusty training center for NATO forces in Europe. Tanks rumble along the trails from dawn until dusk, and the dull thud of artillery shells is always in the air.

But training is very much like combat--short periods of intense activity followed by dull stretches of nothing. And these periods of nothing show the American soldier exercising his famed field creativity and entertaining himself.

A pack of cards can be found in every Infantry squad, and some troops use these until the next order to move out. Some sleep; others amuse themselves by trying to converse with the ever-present German children.

But for most, an order to stand by after the maching guns are dug in is an order to catch up on the latest adventures of Batman, Sgt. Rock, and all the other letterpress heroes of the comic book world.

Comic books are found everywhere. Every armored personnel carrier has a few stuck in the ammunition compartment, and the roomy pockets of field pants can easily accomodate a small library.

Comic books are big business in the Army. Each Post Exchange newsstand gives as much room to comic display as it does to paper-backed books, and the comics sell faster to the soldiers than they do to the dependent children who compete with the troops for space around the racks.

Day room reading racks have dusty copies of Time and The Army Times filling their shelves, but far more popular are the comic books left abandoned near the pool tables.

And the audience for comic books isn't limited to the lower-ranking and less-intelligent soldiers. Many an officer on maneuvers has, in a moment of frustrating boredom, picked up an issue of Batman, smuck away to a secluded spot, and found to his surprise that the Cowled Crime-fighter is good reading after all.

Most of the comics to be found are of the super-hero variety, with Superman easily leading in sales, according to the newsstand clerk at Göppinger, Germany, headquarters of the 4th Armored Division. Following the mild-mannered reporter in Göppingen are Spiderman, the Fantastic Four, Batman, and Sgt. Rock, in that order. Other superhero and war comics round out the list of the top ten.

The war comics often cause a raised eyebrow among trained Infantrymen, for Sgt. Rock and his Easy Company crew would find tough going in any Army. His tactics are as slovenly as his appearance, but he nevertheless sells well, especially among soldiers without combat experience.

Sgt. Nick Fury and his squad are wretched excess and are far down on the popularity list. Soldiers can accept Superman before they'll believe that a combat soldier like Dum-Dum wears a derby.

Among the superheroes, Batman can't seem to generate the enthusiasm shown for the Superman family of characters and Spiderman, although the publicity given the Caped Crusader may boost his sales across PX counters.

And at least one group in the Army has drawn a lesson from the sales of comic books. The Maintenance Board at Ft. Knox, Ky., uses a comic strip magazine named PS and drawn by Will Eisner, creator of The Spirit, to get across its training points.

The Maintenance Board realizes that a highly mechanized army with sophisticated weapons and equipment is useless unless all that expensive gear can work when it is called for. To make it work, it must be properly maintained.

But the board also realizes that few publications are as dull and verbose as the technical manuals used to spell out maintenance procedures. So the board puts out its monthly pocket-sized magazine, and it's a smash hit all around the Army. Soldiers read them and see comic art, with dialogue written in T1 style and instructions given in clear-cut language.

Unfortunately, PS is only a semi-official magazine. The rest of the Army has yet to see the equivalent (complete collections are as treasured among motor pool personnel as an entire set of Detective Comics is among comic fans).

And so the troops turn to standard comics, with their stories of criminals crushed and hills captured. The comics are passed from hand to hand, eluding inspections and sharp-eyed officers. They're dog-eared, grimy with motor oil and tank trail dust, rent with fold rips from being tucked in one too many pockets, and most of all, they're read.

They also come in handy, when there's no toilet paper in the field ...particularly Sgt. Fury.

### --- COMING IN BATMANIA #1 ---

In our next issue we're presenting the first of a new series--BAT-FAN FOTO PAGE...in which you'll see snapshots direct from the White House of Comics and its many visitors. For instance there'll be Roy Thomas, now one of the wheels at MARVEL; Jerry Bails, the old professor himself; Tom Fagan, Chief Editor--whoelse?; Ronn Foss, one of fandom's better talents...and, of course, who else? Well there's Larry Raybourne (in one of his many disguises--The Pen Pal, ...and several others. This is a call-to-arms for fan-fotos. Let's make the Bat-Fan Foto Page a regular part of BATMANIA, so send in those snapshots for future issues.

### Ad-----ATTENTION:

All Batman fans...Here's your big chance. Join Batman Fan Club on West Coast near 20th Century Fox Studio.

Write for free information:

STAN GOLDMAN, 2031 SHENANDOAH APT. 5, LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90034

I WILL TRADE Astounding Stories #1, Sinister Tales #47, X-Men #15, Flash #157, Green Lantern #40, Fantastic Four King-size Annual #3 & Fantastic Four #49 FOR ANY FOUR Batman comics...preferably early editions. All above comics in mint condition. Contact:

MICHAEL PICKUP, 202 HASLICK BLVD., WILDE, BLACK MOUNTAIN, LA 03., ENGLAND

CAPT. BILJO NEEDS the following items for his personal collection:

The new BATMAN Daily and Sunday newspaper comic strips scheduled to begin in late May. I will buy these from you regularly or you may use the strips as credit towards purchase of other comics from me. I am planning on saving several sets of the Batman strips so I would like to hear from several fans on this. I still need James Bond strips, old or current, but in long runs if possible. Newspaper and magazine clippings of Batman and Bond are always wanted. Top items still rate for free issues of Batmania. Send S.A.E. for return of any items sent for trade in case I cannot use them.

### BAT-RIDDLES by Joanne L. Nix (and her students)

1. What are little Batmen called? --Batbrats. 2. By what river was Batman sick? --Bat-ill Creek (Michigan). 3. What if Batman were made into sausage? --He would have come from Bat to wurst. 4. What would we call Batman if he made a monkey out of himself? --a cape-ape. 5. Why won't other bats talk to Batman? ---'Cause he's a Bat-Pink.

# The BATRADER

NOTICE: Only Batman related items may be advertised in The BaTrader.  
RATES: 50¢ for  $\frac{1}{2}$  page ad (or less).  $\frac{1}{4}$  page = 12 typed lines. No ads for less than 50¢ accepted.

WANTED: Will pay 40¢ for the following:

Batman #164, 165, 166 BRAVE AND BOLD #57

Detective #327-335, 339

World's Finest #142, 143, 144, 146, 155, will pay up to \$1.00 for WF#71

Will pay 50¢ for:

Batmania #1-9 Action #285

Kindly send S A E with communications to:

JOHN D. ALALO, 710 SECOND AVE., WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06516

FOR SALE: Batman #175, 171, 170, 169, 154 = 15¢ each

Batman #152, 146, 145, 135 = 20¢ each

Batman #125, 123 = 30¢ each

Batman Annual #1 (good Cond.) = \$1.00

Detective Comics #332, 331, 330 = 15¢ each

Detective Comics #329, 315, 313 = 20¢ each

Detective Comics #270, 262 = 30¢ ea. JLA #13 = 20¢

All comics are in good condition unless otherwise noted.

STEPHEN HUDSON, 12 SWISS STREET, PROVIDENCE, R. I. 02909

The 3rd big issue of The SYMBOL is out!

--And it features: "Spotlight On Batman" and "Bat-Notes"

by Clayton Bell...plus much more. Now only 20¢.

Order from: LYNN WOOLLEY, 1217 SOUTH 17th, TEMPLE, TEXAS

Note: Fanzines with Batman articles can be advertised in The Batrader.

NAME YOUR OWN PRICE -- WANTED: Batman #1-97, 99, 100, 102-107, 109, 111-126, 128-143, 145-198, 150, 152, 154, 158, 162, 172, 179

Detective #1-223, 225-246, 248-292, 295, 297, 299-301, 303-311, 313, 315-321, 335, 337, 339, 342, 343. J.L.A. #1-3, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17

World's Finest #1-111, 113-120, 122-124, 126-128, 133, 138, 140, 145

Also wanted: Batmania #1-9. All J.S.A. comics, any guest appearance by Batman and/or Robin in any comic. Any daily or Sunday comic strips of Batman.

TOMMY VETEIO, 2267 VINTON AVE., MEMPHIS, TENN. 38104

WANTED: Batmania #1 thru 9. Must be in very good condition without any pages missing. Also wanted: BATMAN 1-152 with the exception of 24 & 25; Detective 1-230. Must be in very good condition also. Please send me your prices.

JOE RASNIC

BOX 275

JONESVILLE, VA. 24263

Steve Schaffer

79 Oxford Avenue

Saddle Brook, N.J. 07662

SELL THE FOLLOWING COMICS, OFFERED AT ONE STANDARD LOW PRICE.

When ordering, please (1) include alternate choices; and (2) enclose SAE. Comics are all complete, a few have minor tape repairs on cover. Condition generally good to mint.

BATMAN--#103, 116, 120, 122, 124, 126, 129-131, 133-158,  
159-163. 4 issues for \$1.10

DETECTIVE--#213, 211-254, 266, 267, 269-271, 274-281,  
283-316, 318-322, 324-326 Also, 4 for \$1.10

WORLD'S FINEST--#94, 96-101, 103, 104, 106-112, 114-134,  
137-156. 4 issues for \$1.10

Sorry, sales in units of 4 only. Price includes postage.  
Please follow rules for ordering on top for best service.

COMICS FOR BID OR TRADE: Like Batman #19, World's Finest #39, and many other Golden Age comics and about every comic 1956 on, of all titles & companies. I also have plenty of fanzines and comic material for bid: like Batmanias #2-3, and Superman Sunday and daily strips and many other objects...My wants are: the first four Flash Showcases and Flash #105-113, Green Lantern #1, almost any Golden Age comic, original art, and Sunday/daily comic strips...I have many other sales and wants. You may send your wants and I will try to fill them. You may send money immediately for the comic or group of comics, if the bid is right I will send you the comic(s) inner. If bid is not right I will return the money immediately. (The same goes with comics). For faster communication send S.A.E. or postcard. ROBERT CLAPMAN, 2010 S. SYCAMORE ST., SANTA ANA, CAL. 92707

WANTED: Batman 156. Will pay 25¢. Detective Comics 342 and 347, will pay 20¢ each. Also Giant - "More Secret Origins" #2, will pay 30¢ and Teen Titans #5, 20¢. All must be in good condition with no tears or pages missing. DEANE MORRISON, BOX 2-7, NORTHVILLE, NEW YORK 12134

WANTED: Detective 301, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 309 to 313, 316, 317, 322, 324  
Batman 150, 152, 157, 158 to 161 & Batman Annual 6  
J.L.A. 1 to 4, 6, 1, 16, 18 to 20, 24, 27 to 29. Flash 137, 142 to 144  
Atom 1, 2, 4 to 9. Green Lantern 1, 2, 3, 5 to 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18 to 21 and  
24 to 30. Brave and Bold 29. Secret Origins 1.

Send lists, prices, & conditions to:

JOHN POULOS 1716 E. TUSCARAWAS CA' TOR, O-IO 44707

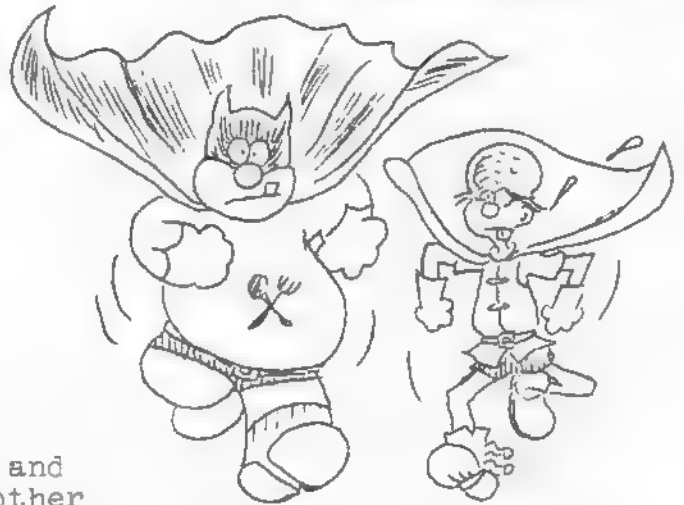
FOR SALE OR TRADE: Justice League: 9-50¢; 14, 16-40¢. 30 pg. Gaint #12-40¢  
Batman: 111-15¢; 114, 121, 124, 125, 126-40¢; 133, 134-35¢; 149, 156, 161-25¢;  
164, 165, 167, 170-20¢; 173, 172, 174, 175, 177-15¢. Detective: 273-40¢; 282,  
289, 296, 297, 298-30¢; 337, 340, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347-15¢. World's Finest:  
95, 96, 102-50¢; 104, 109, 110, 112-40¢; 115-35¢; 120, 124-30¢; 131, 132, 133,  
134, 135, 136, 137, 138-25¢; 140, 141, 142, 144, 145-20¢; 146, 147, 150, 153, 157-  
15¢. All comics fair to mint. Add 15¢ for postage on all orders. Will  
allow 50¢ in comics for Batmania 8 & 9. LUCAS DANG, 703 JACKSON ST.,  
OAKLAND, CALIF. 94607

All Comic Oddities and  
Bat-Facts should be sent  
to P.O.Box 115, Columbia,  
Mo. Credit given to  
contributions.

# C O D D I T I E S M I C

and

BAT - FACTS



Remember SUPER SARGE? Well, he's back -- but this time as FAT MAN, and guess who he has with him? None other than Slobber. In case you missed it, this new group of super-heroes is none other than Sarge and Beetle Bailey of Mort Walker's BEETLE BAILEY strip...and Sarge is having another of his famous dreams. You might have caught the super-heroes in the HI & LOIS strips recently. It has the kids dressed as Eagle-man and Bird-brain.

In MARVEL FAMILY #86, if you happen to have a copy, look at the first page of the second chapter of the King Kull story. Mary Marvel is shown reading a copy of Lords of Creation by Otto Binder (who probably wrote it).

FALSE FACE IS NOT A NEW CHARACTER especially created for the Batman TV show...as found by Steve Kelez in BATMAN #113. The story was titled, "The Menace of False Face. Both were the same type of character, except at the end of the story he was caught and unmasked. Guess who he turned out to be? ...The Joker!

AS DEPICTED BY THIS ISSUES COVER...Batman is (by the time you read this, or shortly after) back in the daily and Sunday newspaper comic strips. To those of you who received Bat-Bulletin #102 this is not news, but in March 5, 1966 issue of EDITOR & PUBLISHER it was announced that the Dynamic Duo were returning to the strips. Our cover shows Batman and Robin busting out of the comic page...they could be saying: We're back -- to stay! At any rate, let's hope so.

The March 21, 1966 issue of PUBLISHERS' WEEKLY announced: "Batman is on the Way." -- A Batman anthology of reprints from the early comic book adventures of the caped crusader is being rushed into a 750,000 copy paperback printing by New American Library. They also will issue a 3-part novelization by Winston Lyon entitled "Batman vs. Three Villains of Doom." --Irene Vartanoff (Only the beginning, fans.)

IN "BATMAN'S ROMAN HOLIDAY" (Batman No. 112), Professor Nichols is styled Dr. Carter Nichols and has snow-white hair, though both before and after he is "Prof." and has brown hair. It is ironic that this story is his biggest role (he goes back in time in this one) and they couldn't get the credits right. ---Irene Vartanoff

TWO RIGHT HANDS OR BLOTCHED COLOR JOB...is the question. Steve Hull reported the oddity of Batman #26, in the last story, panel 4 of page 5, Batman has two right hands. I checked back thru my collection and deduced he might be right. However, there are two different word balloons leading off (the panel) to the owners of the fists. So I assume they indicate both Batman and Robin. Thus the two blue-gloved fists are instead, a color error. One should have been green (for Robin).

IN THE NEW COLUMBIA 8mm FILMS CATALOG on the full page advertising the Batman serial, there are five stills. This is the 1st serial, 1943, yet one of the photos is from the 1949 serial. ---Steve Kelez

BAT-FACTS QUESTION OF THE MONTH -- Were there any issues of Batman Comics in which Robin did not appear on the cover? \_\_\_\_\_ Which Batman cover (if any) was the first without Robin? \_\_\_\_\_ How many covers of Batman (if any) did not feature Robin? (Turn upside down)  
 were: #57, 82, 85, 113, 115, 152, 166, 168, 170 and 174.  
 On #107 he was "Owlman"; #47 was the first one he missed. Others  
 To date Robin has not appeared on 12 different covers of Batman.

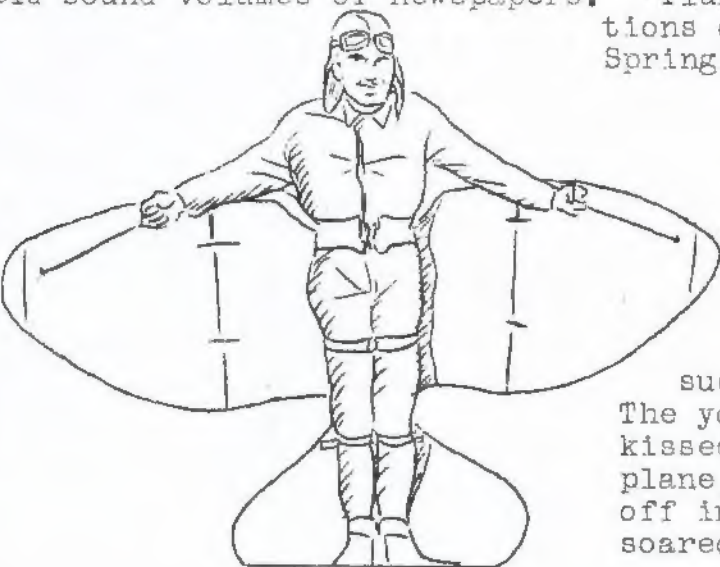
IRENE VARTANOFF: Oh! I almost forgot. I saw the Batman serial twice, so that the plot would jell in my mind, and the second time was several days later. Imagine my surprise when I found that the scenes in which Dr. Daka throws incense on the flames and bows to some religious image had been cut! I asked the man at the desk, but unfortunately he didn't know what had happened. I wonder myself, because if they leave in that bit about "A wise government rounded up the shifty-eyed Japs," why take out the other?

SUPERMAN IN "THUNDERBALL"? Steve Kelez was one of many who spotted one of the 'MardiGras'paraders dressed up in a Superman costume. Holy James Bond.

THE BATMAN OF 1935...was what I found recently when checking over some old bound volumes of newspapers. "Plunge Kills 'Bat Man'" read the captions over a series of photos from the

Springfield (Mo.) Leader and Press for April 5, 1935. "The great moment he hoped to make a real vision he had cherished for months had arrived for Floyd Davis, 22-year-old stunt flyer. He stood with 'bat wings' outspread, ready to ascend from Flint, Mich., airport with Pilot Gordon Helm at the controls, confident of success with his home-made glider.

The youthful flyer turned to his mother, kissed her goodbye, stepped into the plane, rose 6000 feet, and then stepped off into space. For a few seconds, Davis soared, wings flapping, then pulled his



parachute ripcord. Suddenly he plunged earthward at sickening speed, the parachute fouled on the bat wings. A moment later, his shattered body, face half buried in the ground, lay on the field, the wreckage of his wings and parachute draped over him."

COMPARE THE COVER of Spiderman #11 to the small cover ad found on the '2 More Triumphs From Marvel' page in X-Men #4. The X-Men ad shows us a different Doc Ock...see--no sunglasses, whereas on the cover of Spiderman they are there. What happened? ---Dave Prestone

THE 2nd BLOCKBUSTER STORY in DETECTIVE #349 (Mar. '66) had a glaring error. Take a look at panel 5 on page 10 and you'll see Robin maskless during the action of the story. He is causing Batman to appear maskless with a calcium beam and apparently the artist left off all masks.

SEE TEEN TITANS #3 (May-June)...on page 4, panel 4, Robin is shown with no glove on his left hand. The Boy Wonder is having a time with his gloves as TT's cover for #2 shows him with blue gloves instead of green. ---Mark Dillman

### MORE BAT-TRADER ITEMS

WANTED: The following comics in good or better condition;

Batman 102, 103, 116-120, 127, 140-142, 144-148, 151, 154, 157, 163  
 Detective 70, 76, 78, 79, 88, 135, 140, 195, 196, 198, 202-4, 206-208, 217, 219, 221, 228, 230, 234, 255, 299, 301, 304, 308-310, 312-314, 318, 322, 326  
 Showcase 2-4 Star Spangled 122-127, 129, 130 World's Finest 71-76 Batman 3-D (1953 edition)

I have many recent comics for trade, plus hundreds of Batman, Superman, Man from UNCLE, and James Bond trading cards. Get the numbers you need to complete your sets; or I will purchase the comics. Write: BRUCE KIMBLE, 3362 LATTA ROAD, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, 14612

TRADE: I have the following BATMAN gum cards from the first series, 1 thru 8, 10 thru 19, 22 thru 29, 31, 34 thru 36, 38, 40 thru 43, 48, 49, 51 thru 55.

I'll trade 14 cards of your choice (if they are available when your order arrives) for Batman gum cards no. 21 and 46 (first series) and/or DRAG CARTOONS no. 27. BM cards 21 and 46 are badly needed. PLEASE HELP ME; Send stamped envelope for gum cards you need with inquiry.

MARK DILLMAN, 834 PLASS, TOPEKA, KANSAS 66606

NOW is the time to order BATMANIA #12--PLEASE tape coins to stationary.

WANTED: DETECTIVE COMICS NOS. 54 and 57

SUBMIT BIDS: BATMAN COMICS NO. 5 in good condition

SAMUEL VOROBELY, 3131 OXFIELD ST., PITTSBURGH, PA. 15212

### BIG GEORGE!

by Virgil Partch



- IMPORTANT -  
HOW TO OBTAIN  
**BATMANIA**  
the FANZINE for BATMAN  
FANS



Order form

CHECK ONE:

- ☐ - PLEASE SEND THE NEXT ISSUE OF BATMANIA. I ENCLOSE 40¢.
- ☐ - PLEASE SEND THE NEXT 3 ISSUES OF BATMANIA. I ENCLOSE \$1.20
- All issues sent flat in large mailing envelope.

NOTICE: NO COPIES SENT FOLDED + STAPLED AS OF APRIL 1ST. INTRODUCTORY, OR NEW YEAR SPECIAL RATE OF 3 ISSUES for \$1. DISCONTINUED.

**new! "BAT-BULLETIN"**

ALL THE BATMAN NEWS BETWEEN ISSUES OF BATMANIA - FREE!

- JUST SEND A STAMPED (5¢) SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR REQUEST.

Send to =

BILL J. WHITE  
P. O. BOX 115  
COLUMBIA, MO.  
65201

JOHN or JANE DOE  
444 MY STREET  
HOMETOWN, U.S.A.

BAT-PHOTO #3



Burgess Meredith as  
           The PENGUIN



BATMANIA  
Billy J. White  
P. O. Box 115  
Columbia, Mo. 65201

Return Requested

THIRD CLASS MAIL  
Printed Matter